By the King.

A Proclamation for the Prices of Victuals within the Verge of the Court.

WHereas Wee vnderſtand by the Records of Our Counting-houſe, that Our moſt Noble Progenitors & Predeceſſors, Kings and Queenes of this Realm, haue alwaies had an eſpeciall care to reſtraine the exceſſiue Rates and Prices of Victuals, Horſe-meate, and Lodging; And that, notwithſtanding the extraordinary care thereof, taken by Our moſt deare and Royall Father, King IAMES of bleſſed memory, yet there were within the Verge of the Court, alwayes ſome, who out of their greedy deſire of vnlawfull gaine, would neuer bee kept within any bounds of equall and reaſonable Prices, but, by the acceſſe of the Court, and the increaſe of the concourſe of people thither, would take an occaſion to enhaunce their Rates, and exact vnconſcionable extreame Prices, at their owne Willes and pleaſures:

Wee, taking the ſame into Our Princely conſideration, and being deſirous that all Our louing Subiects in generall, ſhould in all places of their trauaile bee well vſed, and eſpecially within the Verge of Our Court, where Our Nobility, Seruants & Traine, dayly attending vpon Our Perſon, are lodged & placed by Our Harbingers, & other Suitors haue dayly occaſion to reſort, Haue giuen order to the Clerke of the Market of Our Houſhold, within the Verge of Our Court, forthwith to cauſe a Rate and Valuation to bee ſet by indifferent Iurors, of all Corne, Victuals, Lodgings, Horſe-meate, and other neceſſaries of that kinde, according to the reaſonable and equall Rates and Prices of the Market, and to renewe ſuch Rates and Valuations from time to time, as occaſion ſhall require, by Oath and Preſentments of Iurors; And haue commanded, that Schedules of the Inquiſitions and Preſentments of the Iuries, to bee thereupon taken, ſhall, not onely be certified by Our ſayd Clerke of the Market, or his Deputie, into Our Counting-houſe, to remaine there with the Officers of Our Houſhold; But ſhall alſo be fixed, and ſet vpon the Gates of Our Court, and other places within the Verge, aſwell within Liberties as

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without, whereby publique notice may bee taken of the same; Our will and pleasure being, and we do by this Our Proclamation straitly charge & command, That no Baker, Brewer, Inholder, Butcher, or other Victualler, or any other person or persons, of what estate or degree soeuer hee or they be, doe in any wise demand, aske, or receiue more for Corne, Victuals, Horsemeate, Lodging, or any other thing to bee specified in the sayd Schedule or Inquisition, then according to the Rates and Prices therein mentioned, vpon paine of imprisonment, and such further punishment, as by the Lawes of this Realme, or by Our Prerogatiue Royall, may bee inflicted vpon them, as oppressors of the Common-Wealth, and contemners of this Our Royall Commandement.

And moreouer, wee doe straitly charge and command, That no manner of person or persons, now vsing, or which shall hereafter vse, to serue any Citie, Borough, Towne, or other place, in, or neere the place of Our residence or abode, or elsewhere within the Verge of Our Court, either within Liberties or without, of, or with any kinde of Corne or Victuals, or other necessaries, either vpon the Market dayes, or at any other time, shall be any thing the more remisse, or slacke, for making of prouision for the same, then they or any of them heretofore haue been, nor shall vse any colour of craft, to deceiue the buyers of, or in the said prouisions, or to withdraw, conceale, hide, or lay aside their Corne, Victuals, Horsemeate, or other necessaries, to lessen or diminish the Market, whereby Our Traine, or attendants of Our Court, within any Citie, Borough, or Towne within the Verge, or the Inhabitants of the same, or any other Our louing Subiects thereunto resorting, shall not be as well, and as plenteously furnished in euery respect, as the Markets were before, in defrauding of this Our Ordinance.

And furthermore, We straitly charge, And expressly command, aswell all Our Officers of Our Greenecloth, and Our Clerke of the Market, and his Deputie or Deputies, as also all Maiors, Bayliffes, Sheriffes, Constables, and all other Our Officers and Ministers of all and euery the Cities, Boroughs, Townes, Hundreds, and other places within the Verge of Our Court, aswel within Liberties as without, That they and euery of them from time to time, when, and as often as any complaint shall bee made vnto them by any partie or parties, iustly grieued or wronged, contrary to the tenour of this Our Proclamation, within their authorities respectiuely, foorthwith to endeauour themselues to see speedy reformation thereof and due punishment of the person or persons that shall offend therein, according to the seuerest Iustice of Our Lawes in that behalfe.

Giuen at Our Court at White-Hall, the fourteenth day of May, in the first yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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